

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02330 071931Z
ACTION EUR-12

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

CONFIDENTIAL COPENHAGEN 2330

SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM; SECDEF FOR OASD/ISA
E.O.: 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: AWACS, DENMARK AND THE MAY DECISION
REFS: (A) USNATO 3273 DTG 301709Z MAR 78, (B) USNATO 3126 DTG
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SUMMARY: NOW THAT THE DANES HAVE THE AEW PACKAGE IN HAND, DEFENSE
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PAGE 02 COPENH 02330 071931Z

MINISTER POUL SOGAARD MUST OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR A FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM THE CABINET AND THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES. HOW AND WHEN HE WILL MOVE IS NOT CLEAR. SOGGARD IS INHIBITED BY A NUMBER OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. IN ADDITION, IT APPEARS THAT THE DANES HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT THE FRG WILL BE WILLING AND ABLE TO MAKE A COMMITMENT IN MAY. ACTION REQUESTED; SECRETARY BROWN AND THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTER SHOULD SEEK

OPPORTUNITIES AT THE APRIL 18-19 NPG MEETING TO GIVE ASSURANCES TO SOGAARD IN ORDER TO HELP HIM GET A DANISH FUNDING COMMITMENT BEFORE THE MAY AEW MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. TO DETERMINE WHAT THE DANES INTEND TO DO NEXT AFTER HAVING RECEIVED THE NATO AEW PACKAGE FROM NAC AND ALSO TO URGE EXPEDITIOUS MOVEMENT OF DANISH FUNDING COMMITMENT IN TIME FOR THE MAY DPC, POL-COUNS AND ODC CHIEF CALLED ON DEFENSE MINISTRY FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT CHIEF GUNNAR FALT-JENSEN ON APRIL 4. FALT-JENSEN SAID THAT DEFENSE MINISTER POUL SOGAARD HAS TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF THREE BODIES BEFORE HE CAN MAKE SUCH A COMMITMENT: THE CABINET, AND THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES. HE ADDED THAT THE CABINET DECISION WILL BE THE CRUCIAL ONE. IF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT GIVES ITS CONSENT, THE APPROVAL OF THE FOLKETING COMMITTEES IS MORE OR LESS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION SINCE THE CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY ENDORSE THE DECISION.

2. FALT-JENSEN SAID THAT SOGGARD HAS NOT MADE UP HIS MIND EXACTLY WHEN AND HOW TO PROCEED. IN ADDITION TO THE ALMOST CERTAIN PUBLIC CLAMOR OVER THE EXPENDITURE OF THE APPROXIMATELY 20 MILLION DOLLARS THAT THE DANISH DEFENSE AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THEY CAN COMMIT TO AEW, THE DANISH GOVERNMENT MUST ALSO WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION WHETHER TO EXERCISE THE OPTION TO PROCURE THE TEN ADDITIONAL F-16S. FURTHERMORE, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY THE LAST FEW DAYS ON THE NEED TO PROCURE ADDITIONAL MILITARY MATERIEL, PARTICULARLY NEW SUBMARINES, AND ON THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS.

3. FALT-JENSEN BELIEVES THAT SOGAARD HIMSELF HAS CONCLUDED THAT A DANISH CONTRIBUTION TO AEW IS JUSTIFIED. SOGAARD WILL PROBABLY,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COPENH 02330 071931Z

SAID FALT-JENSEN, MAKE HIS FIRST MOVE IN THE NATIONAL AUTHORIZATION PROCESS BY SEEKING TO OBTAIN THE FORMAL PERSONAL BACKING OF PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN. SUCH BACKING MUST BE OBTAINED, IN ANY CASE, SINCE THERE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OPPOSITION WITHIN THE CABINET WHICH ONLY JORGENSEN'S PERSONAL INFLUENCE COULD OVERRIDE.

4. IN ADDITION TO THESE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, THE DANES ARE APPARENTLY UNCERTAIN WHETHER ANY RPT ANY DECISION WILL BE TAKEN ON AEW IN MAY. FALT-JENSEN, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE AND THAT A FUNDING DECISION MAY BE DELAYED AS MUCH AS SIX MONTHS.

DANISH UNCERTAINTY IN THIS AREA SEEMS TO BE BASED PRIMARILY ON DOUBTS THAT THE FRG WILL BE ABLE AND WILLING TO MOVE IN MAY. THIS DANISH POSITION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE STATEMENT IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL A, "WITHOUT A STRONG GERMAN COMMITMENT TO A DECISION IN MAY, WE SEE LITTLE HOPE OF CONVINCING SOME OF THE NATIONS (DENMARK, FOR EXAMPLE) TO EXPEND THE EXTRA EFFORT NEEDED TO MAKE A FUNDING COMMITMENT IN MAY".

5. FALT-JENSEN ALSO RECALLED DANISH AMBASSADOR TO NATO SVART'S MARCH 2 STATEMENT ON AEW FUNDING WHERE HE SAID THAT DENMARK'S ABILITY TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE RELATED TO THE EXTENT OF NATO INFRA-STRUCTURE FUNDING FOR THE DANISH LOW-LEVEL RADAR REQUIREMENT (REFTEL B). POLCOUNS AND ODC CHIEF REITERATED US SUPPORT FOR THIS

FUNDING BUT NOTED THAT THE NECESSARY NATO DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN ONLY AFTER THE MAY DPC. FALT-JENSEN CONCURRED IN THIS ASSESSMENT.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN THEIR BELIEF THAT NO DECISION WILL BE TAKEN IN MAY, THE DANES MAY BELIEVE THAT APPROVAL FOR THIS INFRA-STRUCTURE FUNDING MAY IN FACT BE GRANTED BEFORE A COMMITMENT FOR AEW FUNDING WILL BE REQUIRED. FURTHERMORE, IF NO MAY DECISION IS POSSIBLE, SOGAARD WOULD SAVE HIMSELF THE RISK OF CABINET AND PUBLIC CRITICISM AND THE LOSS OF POLITICAL CAPITAL. IF HE COULD OBTAIN CONCURRENCE IN PRINCIPLE OF PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN AND THE CABINET BEFORE THE MAY MEETING, AND IF THE GERMANS ARE PREPARED TO COMMIT THEMSELVES AT THAT TIME, SOGAARD MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A COMMITMENT FOR DENMARK PENDING THE FORMALITY OF APPROVAL BY THE TWO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES INVOLVED. IT WOULD BE TYPICAL OF THE DANES IN NATO NEITHER TO BE THE FIRST ONES TO SUPPORT NOR THE HOLDOUTS ON SUCH A

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PAGE 04 COPENH 02330 071931Z

PROPOSAL AS AEW. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FROM THE DANES FOR AN AEW GO-AHEAD IN HMAY, THEY SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR NATIONS PRIOR TO THE MAY DPC. IN THIS CONNECTION, SECRETARY BROWN AND THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTER SHOULD SEEK OPPORTUNITIES AT THE APRIL 18-19 NPG MEETING TO GIVE ASSURANCES TO SOGAARD IN ORDER TO HELP HIM GET A DANISH FUNDING COMMITMENT BEFORE THE MAY AEW MEETING. DEAN

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